

# Transactions of the Burgon Society

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Volume 14

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## Officers; Events in 2014; Fellows & Members; Editor's Note

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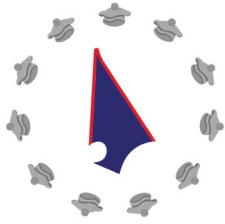
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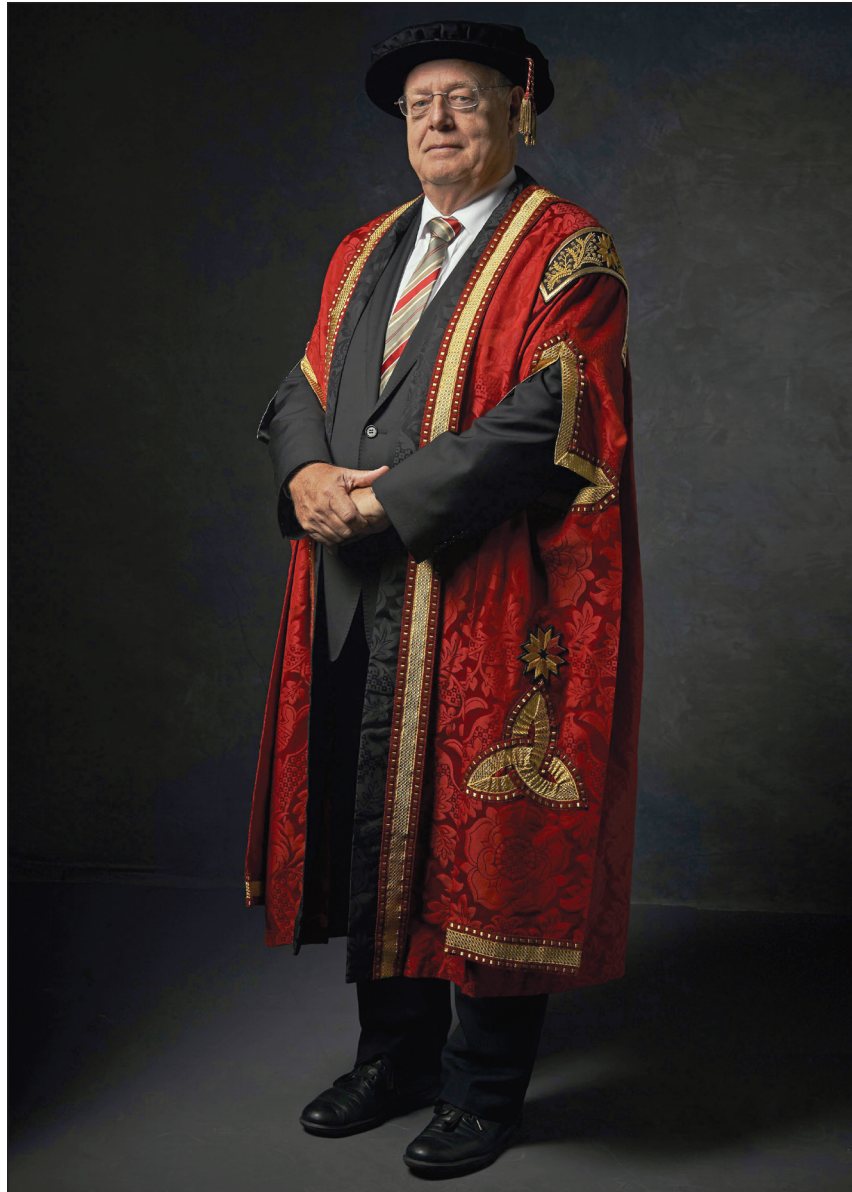
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# TRANSACTIONS OF THE BURGON SOCIETY

Volume 14  
2014



Chancellor of the University of Divinity, Melbourne

# THE BURGON SOCIETY

*Founded to promote the study of Academical Dress*

Registered charity in England and Wales No. 1137522

**Information about the Burgon Society can be found  
on its website at [www.burgon.org.uk](http://www.burgon.org.uk)**

## **Transactions of the Burgon Society** **Volume 14 (for 2014)**



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**Front cover: The gowns for the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Divinity, Melbourne, use red and black St Margaret damask and include motifs symbolic of a university specializing in divinity. The process of designing and making the gowns is described beginning on p. 88.**

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# Burgon Society Events in 2014

## **29 March Visit to the University of Hull**

UNIVERSITY HOUSE (The University of Hull Student Union)

arranged by Richard Baker

Programme included:

Richard Baker — The Academic Dress of the University of Hull and the Hull York Medical School, with examples of robes designed by Charles Franklyn and the University's officers' robes

Nicholas Groves — Afternoon Tea with Dr Franklyn: biographical and archival revelations

## **10 May London Spring Conference**

OFFICES OF DELOITTE Athene Place, 66 Shoe Lane, London

Programme included:

Talks

Alice Hynes — Academic Dress in the Modern University:  
A Personal Perspective

Seamus Hargrave — The Cap and the Church

Sandra Wearden — A Brief History of Lancaster's Ceremonial  
Robes

Bruce Christianson — Portrait of a Time-Travelling Nobleman

Petr Jan Vinš — Academic Dress in the Czech Republic and Former  
Czechoslovakia

Nicholas Groves — Lambeth Degrees and the Historical English  
Robes

Jonathan Cooper — The Academical Dress of the Ionian Academy,  
1824–1864

## **4 October AGM and Congregation**

THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY London

Annual General Meeting

Display of academic robes from the Burgon Society Archive

Admission to the Fellowship of the Burgon Society

Seamus Addison Hargrave (by submission — The Church and the  
Trencher: An Examination into How England's Changing The-  
ology and Church Has Influenced the Evolution and Design of  
the Square Cap Causing its Use as Academic Attire)

Address

The Rt Revd Graeme Knowles

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(as at 1 August 2015)

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Mr Leonard Brown, died 2007  
Professor Bruno Neveu, died 2004  
Dr George Wenham Shaw, died 2006

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## Editor's note

How does something so old stay relevant today? Academic dress lives in the present at ceremonies because it lived—thrived, even—in the past. When we see new graduates wearing it we know it has survived over the centuries not simply because of tradition, but because it carries emotional meaning to those who wear it and to their parents and family too.

Academic dress hasn't always been associated with celebration. In centuries past, politicians have forbidden it, religious leaders have challenged it, and in rough economic times, such as those during the World Wars, less rigorous dress standards saw a decline in its use. Student uprisings in the 1960s changed styles of dress tremendously and tore away most of the dress standards that had survived until then.

Despite it all, academic dress is still worn on campuses around the world. This volume makes that case especially clear. The most recent example comes from Melbourne, where the University of Divinity sought gowns that incorporate ancient symbols in modern design. A much older example is the square cap, which arrived at its current shape after centuries of evolution and no small amount of religious sparring. For something so widely used, the source of the square cap has long been obscured. Our article on square caps traces the square's history, answering questions about the source of its shape that have been posed far longer than the Society has existed.

Even older is the tale of dress for scholars in China, which dates to the eighth century and was last updated in 1994. Keep reading to find out how Chinese graduates today are permitted a rather remarkable degree of freedom to trim their gowns as they wish.

Ancient Greece also makes an appearance in the pages that follow, though an anachronistic one, at the nineteenth-century Ionian Academy, where the college rules used the term toga to refer not to the academic gown but to an actual toga.

You will also find articles about a Glasgow gown, Spain and Japan, the latter rounding out a typographical novelty for us: a single volume that calls into use three non-Latin alphabets. My thanks to the handful of translators who helped clarify terms and text here and there: Charles Tsua, FBS (for his help with Chinese), Anna Minton and Martin Pickles (Greek).

The *Transactions* would not come together without their help and the help of many others. Here's my tip of the (square) cap to the editorial board, who helped our authors strengthen their prose, patiently reading and re-reading succeeding drafts, and who reliably answered my calls for help when I needed it—which was not infrequent. Special thanks for the help I had in making smooth our transition from using one citation style (humanities) to two (by adding social sciences).

Of course, we all owe our greatest thanks to our authors. Their dedication to their topics and their willingness to submit to what must seem like endless rounds of modifications and emendations produces the scholarship that advances our field and enhances the Society. The people who keep academic dress alive help it survive and even thrive.

—Stephen Wolgast